

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: AORG APER UNIDO UNDP US CH

SUBJ: UNIDO - CONVERSATION WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SUMMARY. FIRST OPPORTUNITY TO CALL ON ABDEL- RAHMAN SINCE HIS DEPARTURE MARCH 12 FOR PRC CAME APRIL 6 WHEN FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED: SENIOR AMERICAN POSITIONS; VISIT OF DEPUTY UNDP ADMIN PATEL; A- R' S VISIT TO CHINA; AND A- R' S REACTIONS TO GROUP OF EXPERTS' STRATEGY REPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. ARNOLD' S NAME WAS FORMALLY SUBMITTED FOR POST OF DIRECTOR ISI DIVISION. A- R SAID HE WAS DUE TO LEAVE FOLLOWING DAY FOR WEEK OF MEETINGS IN GENEVA BUT WOULD GIVE THE NOMINATION HIS ATTENTION UPON HIS RETURN. I NOTED THAT WE INTENDED TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS POST WITH ADDITIONAL NAMES IN ORDER TO GIVE A- R SOME RANGE OF BACKGROUNDS AND EXPERIENCE TO FACILITATE MAKING FINAL SELECTION. RECALLING SERIES OF PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS REGARDING SENIOR UNIDO POSITIONS (INCLUDING PROSPECTIVE POST OF DEPUTY EX DIRECTOR) I NOTED THAT THERE WERE THREE BALLS IN THE AIR AND THAT, WHEN THESE CAME DOWN, WE EXPECTED TO BE HOLDING TWO OF THEM -- COMMENTING THAT A- R WAS, OF COURSE, WELL AWARE OF OUR INTEREST IN HAVING AN AMERICAN AS DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AND ADDING THAT WE WERE GRATIFIED TO SEE THAT THE SYG HAD REINTRODUCED IN UNIDO' S 1974-75 PROGRAM/ BUDGET THE PROPOSAL TO CLASSIFY THE POST AT ASG LEVEL (PARA 8 VIENNA 2837).

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ABDEL- RAHMAN SAID HE ASSUMED THAT THE DECISION ON THE SYG' S PROPOSAL WOULD BE MADE IN THE LIGHT OF FURTHER EXAMINATION BY THE ACABQ OF THE WHOLE PROBLEM OF SENIOR POSTS IN THE UN.

2. WHEN I REFERRED TO THE RECENTLY COMPLETED VISIT TO UNIDO BY DEPUTY UNDP ADMIN PATEL, A- R EXPRESSED SATISFACTION SAYING THAT, WHILE PATEL WAS NEW AND IN A POSITION ONLY TO INFORM HIMSELF ON UNDP/ UNIDO RELATIONSHIPS, THE VISIT WAS HIGHLY USEFUL FROM UNIDO' S STANDPOINT AND IN LINE WITH A- R' S DESIRE FOR MORE FREQUENT HIGH- LEVAL CONTACTS (VIENNA 828). ALTHOUGH THE PATEL VISIT COULD NOT BE THE OCCASION FOR THE KIND OF HIGH- LEVEL POLICY CONSULTATION RECOMMENDED BY THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON UNDP/ UNIDO RELATIONSHIPS, IT HAD PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPOSING PATEL TO VARIOUS UNIDO CONCERNS, E. G. TREATMENT BY RESREPS OF LDC REQUESTS FOR SIS PROJECTS, INDUSTRIAL FIELD ADVISERS. A- R ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING OTHER SENIOR UNDP PEOPLE DURING NEXT WEEK' S ACC AND IACB MEETINGS IN GENEVA. (SUBSEQUENT TO MEETING WITH A- R, MISSION INFORMED BY SECRETARIAT CONTACTS THAT MYER COHEN PLANNING VISIT UNIDO IN MAY FOR REVIEW UNDP/ UNIDO RELATIONSHIPS IN RESPECT OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS. POSSI- BILITY THAT PETERSON MIGHT PUT IN APPEARANCE IN VIENNA ALSO ALLUDED TO.)

3. AS REGARDS HIS CHINA VISIT ABDEL- RAHMAN STATED THAT THE OFFICIALS WITH WHOM HE HAD DISCUSSED UNIDO ACTIVITIES (LED BY VICE- MINISTER MADAM CHEN- HUA OF MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES) HAD MADE CLEAR THAT THEY ENVISAGED NO REQUESTS FOR UNIDO ASSISTANCE BUT WISHED TO COO- PERATE WITH UNIDO IN ASSISTING DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. A CONSID- ERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSING UTILIZATION OF THE PRC VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION OF SOME \$200,000. A- R MENTIONED THAT THE CHINESE HAD NOT RAISED WITH HIM QUESTION OF APPOINTMENTS OF PRC NATIONALS TO THE SECRETARIAT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT, FOLLOWING HIS VISIT, THE CHINESE AMB IN VIENNA HAD BEEN NAMED TO BE ALSO PERM REP TO UNIDO.

4. IN BRIEF REF TO EXPERTS' REPORT ON STRATEGY A- R SAID HE WAS GRATIFIED BY RECOGNITION GIVEN BY THE EXPERTS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND BY THE FACT THAT THEY HAD GIVEN THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY AN IDENTIFICATION SEPARATE FROM OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE FORM OF CONVENTIONAL TECH- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NICAL ASSISTANCE. A- R ALSO OBSERVED THAT HE FOUND THE RECOMMEND-

ATIONS CONCERNING UNIDO' S CENTRAL COORDINATING ROLE LEAST
HELPFUL, WITH THE RECOMMENDATION IN PARA 34 (A) (ID/ B/133)
" JUST NONSENSE." STIBRAVY

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